Rs. 1999.14 crores to the various drought affected States subject, however, to adjustment of balances available in the CRF of these States.

Regulating spurious and misbranded pesticides

1072. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stiffen the penalty for dealers selling spurious and misbranded pesticides, promoted by recent raids on pesticide dealers in Delhi by Plant Protection Division;

(b) the details of such cases investigated and punishment awarded during the last two years;

(c) whether high expenditure on ineffective and fake pesticides, particularly for cotton, is reported to have drained off poor farmers' meagre resources on inputs; and

(d) whether Government would consider appointing a regulatory authority to oversee quality control for pesticides, fertilizers, manures, seeds, to protect farmers; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last two years, 301 licenses were suspended, 710 licenses were cancelled, 800 prosecutions were launched, 154 judgments were obtained and 81 convictions took place for offences under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(c) There is no such report with the Government.

(d) No, Sir. The quality of pesticides in being regulated under the provisions of the insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder and that of seeds, under the Seeds Act, 1966 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. Similarly, the quality of fertilizers and manures is being regulated under the provisions of the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 issued under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Nominations for Institutions of Ministry of Agriculture

1073. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Government institutions/undertakings functioning under the Ministry, in which non-Governmental persons are nominated;